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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Office of Marketing Services
Marketing Reports Division
821 Market Street, Room 700
San Francisco 3, California
Western Area

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS

Week ending June 8, 1945

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:

Potatoes: Shipments from the central California section dropped this past week 18 percent from the previous week to 2,835 cars. The same week a year ago there were 3,807 cars moved out of the Kern County area. Total U. S. shipments the past week were 4,943 cars, compared with 6,378 cars for the same week last year.

The f.o.b. market closed the week strong at ceiling. Wholesale prices were at ceiling, and demand was above available supplies.

Apricots: Wholesale prices on the California markets closed the week at 8 cents to 13 cents per pound, but were mostly around 11 cents per pound.

Carlot shipments have increased to an average daily movement of 13 cars during the past week. The total for the season to date is 115 cars, compared with 109 cars last season to the same date.

Cantaloups: OPA, under amendment No. 4 to MPR 426 has extended the present ceiling of $3.95 per jumbo crate of cantaloups, through July 7, in place of through June 26. The extension also applies to honeyballs and honeydews.

70 cars were moved by rail from Imperial Valley, California, during the past week, and 73 for the U.S., bringing the season total to 102 cars. Heavy truck movement continued throughout the week.

Plums: First carload of plums for this season left Placer County, California, during the past week. Six cars have been moved out of Texas, those with shipments from California make a season total of 139 cars, compared with 167 cars to the same date in 1944. Preliminary estimates now place production for California at about 73,000 tons.

Peaches: Movement from the early states has brought the season total to 1,661 cars, compared with 157 cars last season to the same date. The bulk of the shipments, 1,520 cars originated in Georgia. To the close of the past week, no rail shipments were reported from the western area, however, truck shipments were steadily increasing. On the local markets, wholesale prices closed the week at mostly 12 cents for Mayflower and Florence varieties.

DAIRY AND POULTRY:

Eggs: Supplies the past week were far below demand. In some sections candling plants closed during a portion of the week because of inadequate supplies. Dealers have been dipping heavily into their supplies in storage.

Wholesale Prices Compared (Consumer Grade)

(over)

	Large A		Medium A		Small A	
	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944
Los Angeles	42½	36½-37	39½	30-31	36½	22-23
Portland	42	33 -34	39	29½-30½	39	22½-23½
San Francisco	42½	36 -37	39½	30-31½	36½	21 -23½
Seattle	42	37 -39	39	31½-32½	36	24-25

Production on the west coast continued to decline as the week advanced.

Butter: Production in the United States gained the past week approximately 4 percent over the previous week. In the west, and along the Pacific Coast, production declined about 1 percent, and was 16 percent under the corresponding week last year. Pasture conditions continued favorable, and indications are that production may remain at about the present level.

Supplies the past week on the Pacific Coast were considered adequate for the present demand at civilian levels. However, retail sales were much under those of a year ago, especially in San Francisco where they were down 54 percent. Red points appeared to be the limiting factor.

Milk: General good pasture conditions throughout the U.S. have resulted in a high level of milk production. At San Francisco, demand has pressed supplies, resulting a tightening situation.

Poultry: Supplies of both live and dressed stock were well under demand during the past week. Reduction in the OPA ceiling price on Leghorn hens, and increase in egg prices resulted in fewer hens reaching markets.

GRAIN PRODUCTS:

Rice: Urgent demand and scarce offerings kept the markets relatively inactive during the past week. Prices pressed the allowable ceiling.

Crop conditions the past week were very favorable in most of the rice belt, and the new crop is making good headway.

Alfalfa: Good quality hay was in active demand at ceiling prices on the west coast markets. Second cutting harvest is about completed in the southern California area, including Imperial, Antelope and San Joaquin Valleys. Prices at the ranch in Imperial Valley for No. 1 were reported at $25.00 to $26.00 per ton; in the El Monte area. $31.00 to $32.00 per ton for No. 1 hay delivered basis.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS:

Cattle: Receipts on the four western markets increased the past week to 15,007 head, 36 percent above receipts for the previous week. There was also an increase of 29.6 percent in receipts on the twelve principal markets, resulting in a total of 207,000 head, four percent above receipts for the same week a year ago.

Top prices for Good to Choice fed steers ranged $16.50 to $18.00, showing some slight increases over the previous week.

Hogs: Demand exceeded supplies and ceiling prices were firmly pressed on all support weight stock. Good feeder pigs brought a top range of $17.00 to $22.00.

(more)

Receipts on the four western markets for the past week were 10,440 head, up 45 percent from the previous week. On the twelve principal markets receipts were 192,800 head, up 20 percent from the previous week, but only 40 percent of the receipts for the same week last year.

Sheep: Receipts on the four western markets the past week increased 51 percent above the previous week to a total of 21,106 head. There was a decline on the twelve principal markets to 228,400 head, 87 percent of the previous week. However, this number represented an increase of seven percent above the corresponding week a year ago.

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